

Long Beach 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

Prevention Strategies Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes March 16, 2006

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM

Handouts and minutes distributed and discussed.

Corrine reported on the Regional "Fair Share" meeting with the County of LA

Kurt talked about the matrix and Corrine discussed the role of the articles

Kevin facilitated a discussion and brainstorming of goals.

Each article read during the week was used to spark ideas for goals and objectives:

1. **Pulling Apart** (Kurt) – synthesis of the past three decades of census data to show that chasm between richest and poorest quintiles (groups of 20%) of earners in America is growing. Interesting conclusions on who reaps the benefits of increased workforce productivity, however, no direct impact or recommendations for abating homelessness.
2. **Million Dollar Murray** (Pat) – Well written case study of the costs associated with the homeless, especially the chronically homeless. It emphasized the need for immediate housing placement, i.e. the requirement for having housing stock accessible when a client asks for assistance. Varied housing types are needed because client needs are so different. Adequate availability of each type is important. Service providers should engage in intelligence gathering, i.e. outreach to clients to identify need and to service providers to identify and cultivate resources. One major goal of this effort is to stabilize the client's situation.
3. **San Francisco Plan** (____) – Eviction Assistance was one major element of the plan that is applicable to Long Beach. Surveillance and monitoring of the "at risk" population may be accomplished through educating the public and soliciting their help. Use of a database program will facilitate communication and coordination by service providers. Resource shortfalls such as money and legal help as well as other services can also be identified this way.
4. **Putting the Pieces Back Together** (Rachel Jones) – Four ideas came out of this article. The use of video such as webcams is an effective intelligence gathering as well as communication tool. There is a need to direct services to those who need those services. Jail assessment forms can be an effective tool for preparing the incarcerated for reentry into society. And establishing a

central telephone-accessible information function that is responsive to clients, service providers, potential resource benefactors, and the public.

5. Several articles about the transition from foster care were discussed together – One study suggests that as many youth age out of foster care as those who emancipate by running away. One key to resolving the homeless issue among youth is collaborative housing, such as programs in Alameda, San Francisco, Los Angeles counties. "Couch surfing" is also viable for youth. Youth is a unique population and should be dealt with uniquely. Young adults have unique needs such as relationships, education, and employment not shared by other age groups. Partnerships and linkages to colleges, mentoring programs, specialized mental health resources need to be developed. We need to have a goal that addresses what we can do before they leave foster care. They need some sort of learning system to enable their transition to emancipation with adult "life skills." A link to and iterative collaboration with LBUSD needs to be enhanced / developed. And other potential and appropriate collaborations need to be identified.
6. **Veteran's Administration experience** (Craig Lea) – Craig emphasized the high incidence of posttraumatic stress identified in returning veterans of the War in Iraq, perhaps as high as 80%. Combat vets aren't really helped by family and friends. They turn to drugs and homelessness because they really have nowhere else to go. We need to do a better job at identifying them when they are discharged (Craig provided a rather discouraging discussion of the current process). We need to enhance / develop non-traditional partnerships, such as with the Police, churches, social organizations (esp. the Elk's Lodge), bars, and other hangouts including spouses. Peer group "reception centers" were added to our objectives list.
7. **Senior housing needs** - Housing must transition with the aging process. However, service transition in a clients existing environment is preferable. Services need to focus on preventing homelessness. "In-home" monitoring would promote individualized orientation of services. More needs to be done to identify how this would work.

The group discussed common themes and the use of stakeholders to drive goals and objectives. Common themes were: surveillance, identify resources, services, and "in-home" monitoring. Stakeholders thus far identified are: vets, seniors, foster youth, substance abusers, disabled, financially "at risk," and eight more to be discussed next time. Discussion continued around the need to combat the "cycle of homelessness."

Kevin reminded us to stay within our mandate, i.e. the boundaries of the project. We are a planning group. If we stray from our perspective, we'll be unlikely to

complete the mission. A general discussion of how far we go concluded our two hours.

The next meeting will be held on April 6 at 3PM in DHHS #290 (same place).

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:PM.

Whew!